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E-2-23-67 Saigon 3836

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ACTION P 04

INFO EA 19,SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,SAL 01,
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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RELEASE DENIED ☐
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181

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FOR DONNELLY FROM ZORTHIAN

PASS TO OLEKSIW/USIA

1. AS ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS ARRIVING DAILY AUGMENT THE ALREADY EXTENSIVE SAIGON PRESS CORPS AND INTEREST IN THE ELECTION REACHES A PEAK, WE ARE UNDERTAKING NUMBER OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN EFFORT TO PROVIDE PRESS CORPS WITH BALANCED PICTURE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN. YOU MAY FIND THIS SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST:

2. WE ARE INCREASING NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS FOR CORRESPONDENTS WITHE THE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE MISSION.

(1)

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INCLUDING AMBASSADOR BUNKER, GENERAL WESTMORELAND, AMBASSADOR KOMER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION COUNCIL, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION ON BETTER KNOWN CORRESPONDENTS BOTH AMERICAN AND NON-AMERICAN.

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3. WE HAVE ISSUED TALKING POINTS ON THE ELECTION TO ALL SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE MISSION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOME COHESION IN THIS EFFORT. SIMILARLY, WE ARE SEEKING TO KEEP ALL AMERICANS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY INFORMED AS TO DEVELOPMENTS SO THAT THEY TOO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO GENERAL PICTURE EVEN IN COURSE OF CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH PERIPATETIC JOURNALISTS.

4. IN ADDITION, MOST MEMBERS OF MISSION COUNCIL ARE INVITING CORRESPONDENTS FOR LUNCHEONS, AND DINNERS WHICH WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION. AMBASSADOR HAS HAD DINNER FOR SIX ORRRESPONDENTS BOTH LAST WEEK AND THIS WEEK AND WILL HAVE LUNCH FOR EIGHT VISITING JOURNALISTS NEXT WEEK. WE ARE ALSO PLANNING A PRE-ELECTION RECEPTION ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 1 FOR SENIOR RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS, VISITING CORRESPONDENTS FROM BOTH U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES, MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND OTHER OBSERVERS.

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5. WE ARE SCHEDULING TWO DAYS OF SPECIAL BRIEFINGS ON THE GENERAL SITUATION WITH PARTICIPATION LIKELY BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER, GENERAL WESTMORELAND AND OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION COUNCIL. TENTATIVE SRREDULED IS AUGUST 30-31.

6. MR CALHOUN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF POLITICAL SECTION WILL HOLD SPECIAL PRE-ELECTION BRIEFING THRUSDAY, AUGUST 31, WITH EMPHASIS ON MECHANICS OF ELECTION ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY SUBSTANCE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

7. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR NORMAL PRESS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DAILY BRIEFINGS AND MY REGULAR WEDNESDAY BACKGROUNDER MEETINGS. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING COPIES OF ELECTORAL LAWS, BIO DATA ON CANDIDATES AND TRANSLATIONS OF EDITORIALS FROM VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS.

8. MACV HAS BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FOR CORRESPONDENCE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. THERE WILL BE A MAJOR CALL ON MACV RESOURCES IN

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TRANSPORTING CORRESPONDENTS TO FIELD FOR OBSERVATION OF VOTING ON ELECTION DAY.

9. ALL OF THE ABOVE IS IN ADDITION TO EFFORTS BY VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES WHICH WE ARE ENCOURAGING THROUGH OUR CONTACTS WITH

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 3836 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND VARIOUS PRESS OFFICERS.

10. THE SUBSTANCE AND APPROACH IN ALL THESE EFFORTS IS REFLECTED IN EARLIER MESSAGES FROM THE MISSION WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS CONCENTRATED AND COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY THE MISSION WILL HELP PUT THE ELECTION IN PERSPECTIVE IN TERMS OF U.S. AND WORLD COVERAGE.

BUNKER

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